

Syllable Stress

A stressed syllable has a longer, louder, and higher sound than the other syllables in the word. Syllables with the schwa sound in them are rarely the stressed syllable.

Rule 1. When a two syllable word can be both a verb and a noun or adjective, the verb form is usually stressed on the second syllable, and the noun or adjective form is stressed on the first syllable.

Example.

Everyone in our class is present today. (adjective) PREsent

She gave her friend a lovely present. (noun) PREsent

The students will present their speeches on Monday. (verb) preSENT

Rule 2. Prefixes and Suffixes are not usually stressed

Examples:

Walk+ing WALKing

Un+clear unCLEAR

Thought+ful THOUGHTful

Help+less HELPless

Im+poss+ible imPOSSible

Rule 3. Words with some suffixes are usually stressed on the syllable just *before* the suffix.

These suffixes include:

-tion -cian -sion -ic -ity -ical -ify -ogy -graphy

Examples

exam**in**Ation tech**N**ition dis**CUSS**ion e**LEC**tric

elec**TRIC**ity geo**LOG**ical ge**O**graphy

Identify the stressed syllable

1. In-for-ma-tion
2. Ti-re-some
3. Re-spon-si-ble
4. Ex-ci-ted-ly
5. O-be-di-ence
6. In-stru-ment
7. Com-mu-ni-cate
8. Re-mark-a-ble
9. De-cid-ed-ly
10. Trans-por-ta-tion